

REMARKS

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the opportunity accorded to applicant's attorney, Norman Rushefsky, to interview Examiner Pham regarding the present application. At the interview held on March 15, 2007 the various references cited in the final rejection were reviewed by applicant's attorney with the Examiner. Particular attention at the interview was made with regard to the patentability of dependent claim 4. This dependent claim adds to the subject matters of claims 1 and 3 the features that each exposure head is traversed by a leadscrew nut coupled to the exposure head and located on a common leadscrew and the adjustable mechanism comprises a coupling between at least one of the leadscrew nuts and the associated exposure head capable of being displaced relative to the other exposure head.

The primary reference, Shibasaki, was noted to disclose independent drives using a common guide rail 32. However, there was no disclosure in this reference of using a common leadscrew for moving exposure heads to provide adjustment of movement between the exposure heads.

Sawano et al. was discussed in depth particularly with regard to the ball screw sections 33 and 37 which appear to be separate leadscrews that rotate via a motive source 31 and 35. As noted in the control diagram of Fig. 4 it can be seen that the control signals are provided to "a rotation mechanical component" 31 and 35 also shown as M in Fig. 4 that drives what appears to be the separate leadscrews. As noted at the interview by applicant's attorney the ball nut sections 34 and 38 associated with the respective printheads 2b and 2c do not have a separate drive from the control system shown in Fig.4. Thus, it is submitted that the disclosure in Sawano either taken alone or with the other references does not render obvious the subject matter of claim 4 with regard to the exposure heads having a common leadscrew.

Gamblin was also discussed at the interview. This reference shows the printheads being mounted upon a common leadscrew or worm however there appears to be no disclosure in this reference of providing separate adjustment between the movement of the printheads.

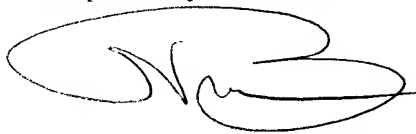
Okamoto et al. was also discussed at the interview and discloses the mounting of recording heads at different locations relative to the print drum 1. In the embodiment of Figs. 1 and 2 separate guide rails 14 are provided along

with the separate ball screws 13; i.e. leadscrews. Okamoto et al. notes in paragraph 0109 that although the recording heads 2 and 3 (310 and 320) travel on the individual guide rails in the foregoing preferred embodiments, they may travel on the same guide part disposed along the drum as has been conventional. It will be appreciated by the routineer that what Okamoto is referring to is disclosure similar to Sawano et al. wherein a common guide rail is used to convey the exposure heads but this does not imply or suggest that a common leadscrew is also to be used particularly where there is to be relative motion between the exposure heads or printheads. In this regard Sawano et al. shows clearly separate leadscrews are typically used in such conventional applications.

Applicant's attorney indicated at the interview that it was applicant's expectation to place claim 4 in independent form and to cancel the claims subject to the final rejection except for those currently dependent upon claim 4 and, of course, those indicated in the final rejection to be allowable. The Examiner indicated at the interview that no decision could be provided with regard to the patentability of claim 4 if presented in independent form inasmuch as an updated search would need to be performed.

In view of the above amendment and remarks it is respectfully submitted that claims 2, 4-7, 15, 17-21, 39 and 40 are allowable and that the application is now in condition for allowance prompt notice of which is earnestly solicited. If, contrary to expectations, issues shall remain the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned in order to expeditiously resolve them. In any event Applicant requests entrance of the amendment as it cancels claims and reduces issues for appeal.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'N. A. Blish', written over a horizontal line.

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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.